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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/919,960	08/02/2001	Bruno Couillard	200634-0090-00-US (409103)	4262
23973	7590	07/28/2008	EXAMINER	
DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH ATTN: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP ONE LOGAN SQUARE 18TH AND CHERRY STREETS PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-6996			PYZOSCHA, MICHAEL J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2137	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			07/28/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/919,960	Applicant(s) COUILLARD, BRUNO	
Examiner MICHAEL PYZOCCHA	Art Unit 2137	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 May 2008.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.
- 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4,7,8,10-12,14-27,32 and 33 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 10-12,14,21-27 and 33 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4,7,8,15-20 and 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 - Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 - Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 - 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10-12, 14-27, 32, and 33 are pending.
2. Amendment filed 05/01/2008 has been received and considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 15-18 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davies et al. (Security for Computer Networks) in view of Arnold (US 6148400 in view of Puhl et al. (US 6223291) and further in view of Menezes et al. (Handbook of Applied Cryptography).

As per claims 1-3, 15 and 32, Davies et al. discloses transferring a first root key between a key provider system and a second other system via an information network comprising the steps of: a) encrypting the first root key using a first super-root key of the key provider system (see pages 160 and 162 where the KKM encrypts the KK and the KKM is therefore the super-root key and the KK is the root key); b) providing within the second other system the second super-root key that is a private key c) transferring the encrypted first root key from the key provider system to the second other system via the information network; d) providing the encrypted first root key to the processor internal to the first secure module of the second other system (see pages 162 and 163); and, e)

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executing program code on the processor internal to the first secure module to decrypt the encrypted first root key using the second super-root key stored wherein the first root key is useable for at least one of encrypting or decrypting private keys, and wherein a bit length of the first super-root key is greater than a bit length of the first root key, and said bit length of the first root key is greater than a bit length of any of said private keys being encrypted or decrypted (see pages 160-163).

Davies fails to explicitly disclose the use of a secure module in each of the systems with read only memory, the keys only being accessible by the internal processor and the key is other than modifiable and other than accessible outside the module and automatically generating a root key request in dependence on a root key status.

However, Arnold teaches such a secure module (see column 8 line 49 through column 9 line 5) and Puhl et al. teaches such a request (see column 18 lines 23-44).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art for each system of Davies et al. to contain a secure module and automatic requests.

Motivation to do so would have been to prevent tampering and eavesdropping (see Arnold column 8 lines 49-67) and to allow root key recovery when a key is compromised (see Puhl et al. column 18 lines 23-25).

The modified Davies et al., Arnold, and Puhl et al. system fails to explicitly disclose that the super-root keys used in the system are public/private key pairs.

However, Menezes et al. teaches the use of public/private key pairs (see pages 25-27).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use public/private key pairs in the modified Davies et al., Arnold, and Puhl et al. system.

Motivation to do so would have been that only the private key must be kept secret (see Menezes et al. page 31).

As per claims 4 and 16-18, the modified Davies et al., Arnold, Puhl et al. and Menezes et al. system discloses the processor internal to the module accesses the second encryption key only in response to a request from a corresponding secure module (see Puhl et al. column 18 lines 23-44 as applied above).

As per claim 6, the modified Davies et al., Arnold, Puhl et al. and Menezes et al. system discloses the super-root keys are symmetric (see Davies et al. page 160).

As per claims 7 and 8, the modified Davies et al., Arnold, Puhl et al. and Menezes et al. system disclose generating keys within the system (see Arnold column 10 lines 43-64).

5. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the modified Davies et al., Arnold, Puhl et al. Menezes et al. system as applied to claim 18, and further in view of Easter et al (US 559889).

As per claim 19 the modified Davies et al., Arnold, Puhl et al. and Menezes et al. system fails to disclose the module is FIPS 140 compliant.

However, Easter et al teaches such a compliant module (see column 6 lines 13-21).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the module of the modified Davies et al., Arnold, Puhl et al. and Menezes et al. system to be FIPS 140 compliant.

Motivation to do so would have been to allow for top security (see Easter et al column 6 lines 13-21).

6. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the modified Davies et al., Arnold, Puhl et al., Menezes et al. and Easter et al system as applied to claims 18 and 26, and further in view of Bergum et al (US 5249277).

As per claim 20, the modified Davies et al., Arnold, Puhl et al., Menezes et al. and Easter et al system fails to disclose a tamper detection circuit for erasing every cryptographic key stored within the memory circuit in dependence upon a detected attempt to access the electronic contents of the module in an unauthorized fashion.

However, Bergum et al teaches such a method of tamper protection (see column 4 lines 7-32).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to apply this method of tamper protection to the modified Davies et al, Arnold, Puhl et al., Menezes et al. and Easter et al system.

Motivation to do so would have been to provide maximum key security (see Bergum et al column 4 lines 7-32).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 10-12, 14, 21-27, and 33 are allowed.
8. The reasons for allowance have been put forth in the action mailed 01/28/2008 and are not repeated here within.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 05/01/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Menezes fails to teach storing a private key in a secure hardware module and the remaining references fail to cure this deficiency.

With respect to Applicant's argument that Menezes fails to teach storing a private key in a secure hardware module, Menezes is relied upon for teaching the well-known concept of public/private key encryption. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for the super-root keys to be public/private key pairs. Therefore, when combined as above the symmetric keys of the modified Davies system are replaced with the public/private key pair as taught by Menezes the private key would replace the symmetric key stored in the secure hardware module because as taught by Menezes only the private key needs to remain secret. Therefore, the combined references teach each of the claimed limitations.

Applicant's argument that the remaining references fail to cure this deficiency is moot in view of the above response.

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL PYZOCHA whose telephone number is (571)272-3875. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MJP

/Nasser G Moazzami/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2136